



Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-0958 (602) 542-5420

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Katie Decker, 602-361-8065

Two New Cases of West Nile Virus Found In Horses This Year

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Two new cases of West Nile Virus have been discovered in Queen Creek and Tucson, Arizona. As of this time last year, Arizona had 45 cases. The following is a list of cases so far this year.

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| • Mesa, AZ | 1 case | April 20, 2005 |
| • Buckeye, AZ | 2 cases | |
| • Laveen, AZ | 2 cases | |
| • Camp Verde, AZ | 1 case | |
| • Queen Creek, AZ | 1 case | |
| • Tucson, AZ | 1 case | |

Last year, 109 cases were discovered in horses in Arizona. West Nile Virus affects horses much more often than any other domestic animals. Many horses infected with West Nile Virus do not develop any illness, but of horses that become ill about one-third die or need to be euthanized. In general, other livestock and poultry do not show any illness if infected with West Nile Virus. Below are some common questions about West Nile Virus in horses.

How do horses become infected with West Nile Virus?

The same way humans become infected-by the bite of infectious mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected after feeding on an infected bird. Mosquitoes cannot get West Nile Virus from an infected horse.

Can I get infected with West Nile virus by caring for an infected horse(s)?

West Nile Virus is transmitted by infectious mosquitoes. The infected horse is not contagious to humans or to other horses. Normal infection control precautions should be followed when caring for a sick horse.

Can horses infected with West Nile virus infect horses in neighboring stalls?

No. There is no documented evidence that West Nile Virus is transmitted between horses.

How do I protect my horse(s)?

Control insects in the area and have your horse vaccinated.

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